Japan in East Asian Security

Naval War College Conference on the Strategic Dimensions of Global Leadership

> Newport, Rhode Island June 2004

> > Richard J. Samuels M.I.T.

"Japan Inc." Has Morphed

Change at Last or Change at Least?

The Political Landscape

The Economic Landscape

Political Landscape

Splintered Party System

The Left has Left

 Bureaucracy no longer primus inter pares

First Popular PM in a Generation

Economic Landscape

Change at Last?

- "Hollowing out"
- Social Contract Repealed
- Price Sensitivity
- Deflation

Change at Least?

- Stalled Deregulation
- Looming Fiscal Crisis
- Looming Debt Crisis
- Minimal Inward DFI

Security Policy "Steady As She Goes"

- Yamagata's Ghost
- Comprehensive Security
- A "Reliable and Warm-Hearted SDF" JDA White Paper (2002)
- Non-Nuclear Principles
- Limited Defense Budgets
- No Defense Ministry

What Military Build-up?

World's #2 Defense Budget by 1990s (\$45b)

But:

Defense Budgets Small and Shrinking, both absolutely:

- 2003 cut 0.4% 2004 cut 1%. And relatively:
 - 1989 = 1.01% GDP
 - 2001 = 0.95% GDP
- SDF Buying Less Equipment:
 - 1989 = 63 Major Surface Warships 2003 = 52 Major Surface Warships
- Fleet Getting Older:
 - Average Age of Major Warships: 12 years in 1989, but 15 years a decade later.

Japan's Hedge

 Forever balancing its Military Shield and Mercantile Sword

"America can be Japan's ally in security affairs, but I do not think it can be an ally in economic affairs." (Okamoto)

Becoming "Normal" ?

- SLOC Patrols (1981)
- Regional Cooperation for Maritime Interdiction (1999)
- Koizumi's Declaration on Article IX (2003)
- Ishiba's Three Declarations (2002-3)
 - Defensive Defense
 - Arms Exports
 - Preemption
- Reaching out to Touch
 - Aerial Refueling
 - Assault Ships
 - Marines (?)
- Collective Security
 - Destroyers to Diego Garcia (2002)
 - Boots on Iraqi Ground (2004)
 - -- Participation in post 30 June UN force?

Three Catalysts

First Gulf War → "Checkbook Diplomacy"

- Minesweeping
- PKOs

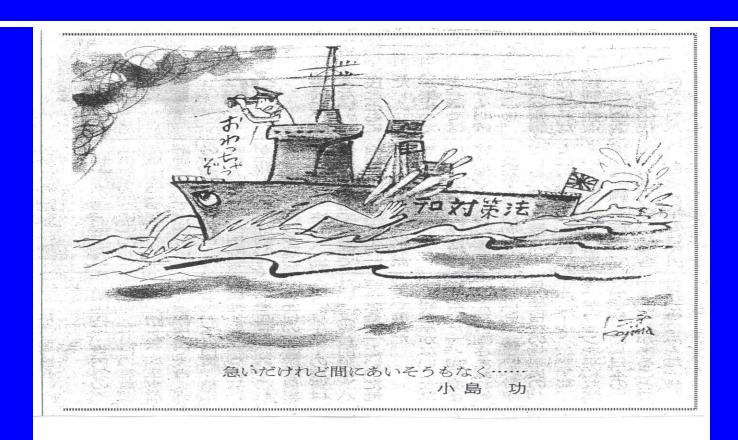
Second Gulf War → "Showing the Flag"

- Two Major "Out of Area" Deployments
- "Rushing to Help"

Consolidation of Anti-Mainstream Conservative Power

Kishi → Koizumi → Fukuda → Abe → Koizumi → Fukuda → Abe

Rushing to Help



MI

Warm and Fuzzy



Gone Hollywood?

"Seamanship for Love... Seamanship for Peace"



Japanese Boots on Iraqi Ground



DPRK: The Mother of all Catalysts

- 1998 Taepodong Test → Spy Satellite
- 2001 Mystery Ship / Naval Battle → SDF Law Revision
- 2002 Nuke Crisis Redux → Reaffirm Alliance but:
- Abductees > Nukes in 2002 & 2004 Koizumi Visits

Alliance Issues Remain

- Host Nation Support
 - omoiyari yosan ("condolence fund")
 - SOFA
- Okinawa Quiet but Unresolved
 - Special Action Committee for Okinawa (1995)
 - .6% Japanese Territory
 - 50% U.S. Forces Japan
 - 75% U.S. military Facilities Japan
- Elite and Popular Support Very Soft
- Divergent Interests in Iran and elsewhere

Plausible Near-term Postures

- Status Quo (Sho Nihonshugi Ron)
 - Cork in Bottle
 - Defensive Defense
 - Junior Partnership with U.S.
- Alliance Plus (Futsu no Kuni)
 - Full partnership with U.S.
 - Rearmed
 - Active in UN PKOs
 - British-style "Normality"

Possible Long-term Postures

Muscular Realist (Nippon jishu boei ron)

- Full Hedge
- Can say "No"
- French-style "Normality": Full Rearmament
- Armed Neutrality
 - Full Rearmament
 - Full Hedge
 - <u>Does</u> Say "No"
- Pro-China Tilt
- Finlandization
 - Trade junior partnerships

Q&A

The Neighborhood: China

- Japan Tiring of Aid and War Crime Accusations
- China Tiring of Yasukuni Visits
- PRC "Research Ships"
- Territorial Dispute
- Taiwan Ambiguity
- **BUT**, Incentives for Accommodation →

Incentives for Accommodation

- Economic Complementarity
 - China 15% Japanese 2003 Trade
 - China 80% Japan's 2003 export growth
- Non-Moralistic Foreign Policy
- Common Interests on DPRK
- Demographics
- Japan Cannot Imagine Dominating China

Regional Issues: Russia

- No WWII Peace Treaty
- Kurile Island Dispute
- BUT HERE, AGAIN: "It's the Oil, Stupid!" Secret Negotiations Balancing China

Japanese Islands Disputes

Names	Description	History	Issues
Japan: Northern Territories Russia: Kuriles	 •NE of Hokkaido •30,000 Residents •Three large Islands: Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotani plus Habomai Islets 	1945: Annexed by USSR. 17,000 Japanese deported 1956: Provisional USSR-Japan Agreement 2001: Still no WWII Peace Treaty	Jurisdiction Divided Families Energy?
Japan: Senkakus China/Taiwan: Diaoyutai	•110 miles NE of Taiwan, 220 miles WSW of Okinawa •Five uninhabited islets and 3 reefs (<1800 acres)	1895: ceded to Japan after Sino-Japanese War 1943: Implicit part of Japan in Cairo Declaration? 1945-1971: Administered by USG as part of Okinawa. Status unspecified in reversion agreement	Nationalism Piracy Energy?
Japan: Takeshima Korea: Tokto	35 miles from Korea and Japan in Sea of Japan (East Sea)2 uninhabited islets	Status Unspecified after WWII	Fishing Rights Postage Stamps

Further Afield: Iran

- "It's the Oil, Stupid!"
- Like Europeans, Japan Ignores U.S.
 Sanctions
- UK and Germany as IAEA cover
- \$6-\$12 billion in deals on the table

U.S. Forces in Japan

~45,000 troops

- Air Assets
 - F-16, EP-3 electronic warfare, airlift, P-3C patrol (Yokota, Misawa AB)
 - F-15, KC-135 refueling, E-3 AWACS, C-130 transport, P-3C (Kadena AB)
- Naval
 - USS Kitty Hawk carrier battle group (Yokosuka)
 - Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) Belleau Wood (Sasebo)
- Ground
 - US Army (Camp Zama)
 - USMC, III MEF (Okinawa)

U.S. Forces in Okinawa

- The Forces: ~25,000 troops
 - U.S. Marines
 - III Marine Expeditionary Force (HQ)
 - 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit
 - 36th MAG (Marine Air Group) --helicopters
 - 1st MAW (Marine Aircraft Wing)
 - USAF (Kadena AB)
 - 18th Wing
 - F-15s, E-3 AWACs, KC-135 refueling aircraft, C-130 transport aircraft
 - U.S. Navy
 - P-3C antisubmarine aircraft

Disputes Over Okinawa

- Crime (1995 rape)
- Accidents and aircraft crashes
- Artillery live-fire exercises
- Highway closings during training
- Noise pollution
- Environmental degradation

Alternatives to Okinawa

- Withdrawal of Marines (III MEF)
 - Darwin, Australia
 - Guam
 - CONUS or Hawaii
- Pre-positioned forces
 - Maritime pre-positioning vessels
 - Land-based units